

couver captain. No, I would wager that what he felt most powerfully that night was loyalty. Loyalty to a very close friend and teammate.

Bobby Orr used to talk about the old Boston Bruins as "a team of brothers." As Mr. Bertuzzi no doubt saw it, a brother had fallen in battle and a brother would respond in kind. It's the law of hockey.

Here's another thing I learned as I studied the game and its history. I talked to former NHLers Marty McSorley and Red Horner and Ken Dryden and Eric Nesterenko and many others, many smart and

articulate people and I was grateful for their insights. But the one ex-pro who got me thinking hardest was Morris Mott, a smallish forward with Team Canada in the late 1960s, and later with the now defunct California Golden Seals, and now a pro-

fessor of Canadian history at Brandon University in Manitoba. He talked about the "hockey code" and "codes within codes."

The Hockey Code, at least in part, compelled Todd Bertuzzi to do what he did.

The problem, says Prof. Mott, is that "everyone feels the code but no one is exactly sure how it works. That's because not everyone can agree on what transpired five seconds ago, or five games ago."

Was Steve Moore's hit on Markus Nas-

and who buy hockey-violence videos. Blame the smirking sportscasters who make fights part of their late-night highlights and who celebrate "good, old-time hockey."

Old-time it may well be. But there's nothing good about that side of an otherwise beautiful game. Todd Bertuzzi and Steve Moore are only the latest to learn that hard truth.

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Jean's friend Jean: the man who made things happen



LAWRENCE MARTIN

Eddie Goldenberg, whose brain frequently did pinch-hitting and sometimes even lead-off for Jean Chrétien, was on the phone from his new law office at Stikeman Elliott.

He's hardly been heard from since the sponsorship scandal began consuming the headlines a month ago, when the Martin government, instead of burying the two-year-old scandal, decided, in a move that will likely reverberate in the party for years to come, to blow it wide open.

Mr. Goldenberg was the government's policy boss. He had his hands on almost every important file, especially the controversial ones. But not, he says emphatically, the sponsorship file. "I had nothing at all to do with the program."

You never, he was asked, heard things indicating there might be a problem with the way it was being run? "Never." You didn't have any dealings with Alfonso Gagliano on the file? "No."

About Jean Chrétien, Mr. Goldenberg said the same. There was no knowledge on the former prime minister's part. "Absolutely not." The former PM apparently was just like Mr. Goldenberg, thinking all was okay until the first Auditor-General's report arrived in 2002.

Didn't the Prime Minister's Office exercise oversight of the program?

"The PMO," responded Mr. Goldenberg, washing his hands even cleaner, "does not have oversight over the administration of any program."

That would be news to Randal Quail, the former deputy minister of Public Works. He testified before the public accounts committee recently that the sponsorship program was given special status outside the normal channels of accountability, and suggested that this special status came from the top political levels.

Mr. Goldenberg got testy at the mention of that, saying he wouldn't comment,

and that it was for the public inquiry to look at. He said Mr. Quail never addressed any problems about the program with him. There was a Treasury Board submission in regard to the program, he explained, and it said contracts had to be competitive and regulations followed. "That's where the PMO and the minister's role ended."

Or did it?

Patrick Lavelle, the former chairman of the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) was on the line from Toronto. He had opposed the appointment of Chrétien acolyte and PMO staffer Jean Carle to the BDC in the late 1990s, he said, feeling the young man could be a troublemaker.

He recalls that back then, Mr. Carle was pushing him (Mr. Lavelle) to give work to communications firms like Groupaction, which has been named in the scandal.

"I would get calls from him saying that these guys should get work, and could that happen," recalled Mr. Lavelle. "Carle was always aggressive and he always spoke in the name of the prime minister."

Would Jean Carle, such a close servant

of the prime minister, use the PM's name on such missions with Mr. Chrétien knowing nothing about it?

The BDC has been named by the Auditor-General as being involved in the sponsorship scandal, and Mr. Carle has been named as an administrator who channelled the funds. He has previously denied that, but he denies many things.

Mr. Lavelle, a long-time Chrétien supporter who says he has no firsthand knowledge that the PMO was aware of what was going on, wishes the prime minister had listened to his warnings. Jean Carle has become Jean Chrétien's worst nightmare. He also figured in the recent and devastating Beaudoin judgment. Mr. Carle was one of the men at the BDC, ruled a Quebec Superior Court judge, who waged an apparent vendetta against the bank's then-president, François Beaudoin. Mr. Beaudoin had resisted Jean Chrétien's wishes in regard to a loan for the Grand-Mère hotel.

The loan was at the heart of the Shawinigate drama. The scathing court decision came after years of protests by Mr. Chrétien's PMO that the story was a media

concoction. As well, CanWest media executive David Asper attempted to muzzle journalists who might pursue the story.

In an interview I had with him last year, Mr. Goldenberg grew furious at the mention of Shawinigate, threatening legal action. This week, despite the court judgment, he was still trying to defend Mr. Chrétien on the file, saying the former PM had no personal financial stake in the Grand-Mère properties.

He tried to defend Mr. Carle as well, saying there should be no prejudgments until the inquiry does its work. There's more to the Beaudoin case than meets the eye, hinted Mr. Goldenberg, and on that point he was supported by Mr. Lavelle.

Though trying to defend Jean Carle is a Herculean task, it is smart of Eddie Goldenberg to come to his aide. The old Chrétien gang desperately wants to keep him on side. They fear that if Jean Carle cracks under pressure and starts telling an unflattering version of the sponsorship and Shawinigate stories, the whole Liberal house could come crashing down.

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